

Duxbury Clipper, Thursday, November 27, 1975

Writes Of Frank Davis

Shirley Morony of Lubec, Me., has a letter to the editor of **National Fisherman** in the May 1974 issue. She wrote in part:

"I was interested in an article sent to me by Frank A. Davis concerning his late father, Frank Allen Davis, who was born in Lubec in 1895, the son of Capt. George W. Davis. He went to sea at an early age and in 1916 entered the lighthouse service in which he served until his retirement, February 1946. He then joined his son, Frank, in operating the Duxbury Boat Yard, Duxbury, Mass. He died last November.

"My next-door neighbor said she remembered Mr. Davis.

"It seems that a good many young men from this down-east area either went to sea, joined the lighthouse service or the Coast Guard."

(Here are excerpts from the article. -- Ed.)

"When Frank Allen Davis stepped aboard the lighthouse tender Azalea on March 25, 1916, he began a career in the lighthouse service that lasted nearly a quarter of a century.

"During his boyhood years, Davis spent much of his time in and around his native Lubec, Me., where he was born in 1895. By the time he was 20, he had sailed aboard the salt bank fisherman Maude S carrying freight and weir takes to Grand Manan, the steamship Governor Dingly, the steamer Esparta hauling fruit from the Caribbean, and the coaler Coast Wise out of Everett, Mass.

People - Davis

"Aboard the Azalea, Davis served as a quartermaster under one Captain Bartow. After some time aboard the tender, he took the opportunity to become third assistant keeper at Thatcher's Island Light. But within 6 months, the keep on Duxbury Pier Light died, and Davis was transferred to take over this assignment.

"During his 3-year stay on Duxbury Pier, Davis married Olive L. Lacey of Plymouth. However, Duxbury Pier offered no quarters for the keeper's family, so Davis began a search for a better equipped light. When Tarpaulin Cove Light on Naushon Island became available, Davis transferred there. Although the Tarpaulin Light station provided family accommodations, there were no schools available nearby. Thus, when the eldest of his 3 children born at Naushon reached school age, Davis once again sought a transfer.

This time, Davis moved to Gurnet Light in Plymouth. For the next 17 years, Davis and his family lived at the Gurnet until 1937, when Lighthouse Service transferred from the Commerce Dept. to the Treasury Dept. under the U.S. Coast Guard. At that time, Davis joined the Coast Guard with the rating of Chief Boatswain's Mate and left the lighthouses for good. After retiring from the Coast Guard in 1946, Davis operated the Duxbury Boat Yard in Duxbury, with his sons.

Davis died in Florida this past November.